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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.



November 15, 1951 SS 108

Cotton Crop Smaller Than Expected

A 7 percent drop in cotton production from a month ago is the principal change noted in the November crop estimates. Late plantings failed to develop well and insect damage was worse than expected. The decline from last month in Texas alone was a half million bales. Now forecast at 15.8 million bales, the U. S. crop is down a million bales from last month and is $1\frac{1}{2}$ million below the September estimate. Last year's small crop was 10 million bales; 10-year average, 12 million.

Corn Crop Still About 3 Billion Bushels

The estimate for corn is also down a little. Corn for all purposes is now estimated at 3,088 million bushels as against 3,105 million month ago. Some immature and frost-damaged corn could not be salvaged. Last year's crop totaled 3,131 million; 10-year average, 2,981 million. Corn produced for grain is estimated at 2,772 million bushels, almost the same as the 2,845 million produced last year.

Changes Small for other Crops

Slight decreases from a month ago are noted for a few other crops...buckwheat, rice, potatoes, dry beans, peanuts, broomcorn, apples and pears. Prospects have improved a little for soybeans, sorghum grain, tobacco, sugar beets, sweet potatoes, and pecans.

Big Crop of Soybeans

The soybean crop, nearly all harvested, is estimated at 278 million bushels. Larger by 6.4 million bushels than the estimate last month, it is only 3 percent less than last year's record crop and is more than half as large again as the 10-year average.

Sorghum Grain, Third Largest Crop

Sorghum grain, at 166 million bushels compares with 164 million estimated last month and is the third largest crop of record. The '40-49 average is 119 million. Last year's all-time record was 237 million.

Tobacco Crop up 12 Percent

The production of 2.3 billion pounds of all tobacco, as now forecast, is about 12 percent larger than last year's 2-billion pound crop.

Smaller Than Average Peanut Crop

Peanut crop will be about 1.6 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the October estimate. Crop is 19 percent smaller than both last year and average.

More Oranges Less Grapefruit

A large new crop of oranges is indicated; grapefruit crop smaller than last season.

Deciduous Total Up

Deciduous fruit production this year totaled 9 percent more than last year and 5 percent above average. Apple crop is above average by about 4 percent. Eastern apple crop is above average. Western crop below average.

Plentiful Crop of Alfalfa Seed

Alfalfa seed production at 96.4 million pounds (clean seed) is a little smaller than last year's large crop but nearly half again as large as 10-year average. (See story on grass seed supplies in the November "Agricultural Situation.")

Rice Crop Tops Average By 42 Percent

Rice crop now estimated at 44.6 million bags (100 lb.) is 17 percent larger than last year's big crop and 42 percent above the 10-year average of 31.4 million bags. Big acreage of rice this year.

No Potato Surplus

Indicated 336-million bushel Irish potato crop is down from a month ago by about $1\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels. Production is 18 percent below average and there is no surplus this year. Last year's crop was 439.5 million bushels, of which about 100 million bushels was bought up by the Government under the price support program. Sweetpotato production, up a little from October estimates, will be about 34.8 million bushels compared with 58.7 million last year and 61.1 million average.

Estimates of Other Crops With Comparisons

Oats production 1,372 million bushels. Production last year, 1,465 million; average, 1,312 million.
Barley, 254.4 million bushels. Production last year 301 million; average, 306.5 million.
Rye, 25.1 million bushels. Production last year, 23 million; average, 30.2 million.
Buckwheat, 3.8 million bushels. Production last year, 4.7 million; average, 7 million.
Flaxseed, 32.3 million bushels. Production last year, 39.3 million; average, 37.2 million.
Sorghum grain, 165.8 million bushels. Production last year, 237.5 million; average 118.8 million.
Hay, 114 million tons. Production last year, 107 million, average 102 million tons.
Beans (dry edible 100 lb. bag), 16.6 million bags. Production last year, 16.8 million; average, 18 million.
Peas (dry field, 100 lb. bag), 3.7 million. Production last year, 3 million; average, 5.9 million.
Sugarcane (sugar & seed), 6.5 million tons. Production last year, 6.9 million; average, 6 million.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Sept. 15 1951	Oct. 15 1951	Oct. 15 1951
Wheat, bu.dol.	2.07	2.10	2.42
Corn, bu.dol.	1.65	1.64	1.76
Peanuts, lb.ct.	11.0	10.4	13.2
Cotton, lb.ct.	33.73	36.21	33.98
Potatoes, bu.dol.	1.23	1.39	1.83
Hogs, 100 lb.dol.	19.70	20.30	21.40
Beef cattle, 100 lb. ...dol.	29.50	29.00	19.90
Veal calves, 100 lb. ...dol.	32.80	32.70	22.20
Lambs, 100 lb.dol.	29.80	29.80	21.80
Butterfat, lb.ct.	1/ 68.8	1/ 67.7	77.0
Milk, whsle., 10G lb. ...dol.	1/ 4.50	1/2/4.55	4.81
Chickens, live, lb.ct.	25.2	24.2	31.4
Eggs, doz.ct.	1/ 49.1	1/ 47.1	53.0

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Preliminary.

Sugar beets, 10.7 million tons. Production last year, 13.5 million; average, 9.9 million.
 Broomcorn, 33 thousand tons. Production last year, 26 thousand; average, 43 thousand.
 Hops, 61.8 million pounds. Production last year, 58.3 million; average, 47.1 million.
 Peaches, 70 million bushels. Production last year, 53.5 million; average, 71.2 million.
 Pears, 32.2 million bushels. Production last year, 31.1 million; average 31 million.
 Grapes, 3.2 million tons. Production last year, 2.7 million; average 2.8 million.
 Cherries (12 States), 232 thousand tons. Production last year, 242 thousand; average, 186 thousand.
 Apricots (3 States), 177 thousand tons. Production last year, 215 thousand; average, 220 thousand tons.
 Cranberries (5 States), 914 thousand barrels. Production last year, 984 thousand; average, 728 thousand barrels.
 Pecans, 148 million pounds. Production last year, 126 million average, 124 million.

All-Crop Output 3rd Highest

All-crop output at 131 percent of the 1923-32 average is still the third highest of record, only 1 point lower than the estimate in October.

All-Grain, Food Grain, Feed Grain

This year's production of about 152 million tons of all grains, plus carryover, will amount to about 193 million tons, only 5 percent less than last year's total. Output of food grains nearly 33 million tons plus carry-over totals about 45 million tons, compared with the 46.5 million tons a year ago. Feed grains produced — about 119 million tons — plus carryover totals 148 million tons. This is about 5 percent less than last year's 156 million tons, but is 27 percent above the 1937-41 average.

Feed Grain Carryover May go Lower

Feed grain supplies, though fairly large as previous years go, are not in excess of needs. Increasing numbers of livestock to be fed are expected to reduce the feed grain carryover next year. And need for still larger feed grain crops is indicated if production of livestock products is to continue upward.

Less Fall Vegetables Than Year Ago

Commercial truck crops produced this fall for fresh market will total about 10 percent less than last fall but 8 percent above average. This is based on conditions Nov. 1, but with deductions made for early November freezes in Texas and Virginia. Cabbage, carrots, and lettuce show the largest drops. Production of snap beans, cauliflower, celery, spinach and tomatoes will be up from a year ago.

Little Change in Milk Production

The 9,025 million pounds of milk produced in October was nearly the same as the record 9,081 million produced a year earlier and was 2 percent above average for the month. January-October output totals 102.9 billion pounds, close to the 103.6 billion for the 10 months a year earlier.

October Egg Output A Record

Hens laid 4.2 billion eggs in October, record for the month and 4 percent more than in October last year. January-October production totals 51.5 billion compared with 51.7 billion year earlier. 10-year average for the 10-month period is 45.8 billion.

Turkeys Plentiful

Turkey production this year is expected to be an all-time high. Crop this year includes greatly increased numbers of Beltsville small whites. Farmers averaged 35.8 cents per pound for live turkeys mid-October, up about 4 cents a pound from year ago.

Feeding More Favorable for Eggs and Turkeys

Egg-feed and turkey feed relationships mid-October were more favorable than last year...less favorable for chicken feed. The feed price averaged \$4.04 per 100 pounds, compared with \$3.60 year ago.

Current Prices Received and Paid

Prices received by farmers increased 5 index points or 2 percent from mid-September to mid-October. Since March, trend had been downward. Current index at 296 is still 17 points or 5 percent below the high peak reached in February. Higher prices for cotton and for dairy products contributed largely to the current increase. Prices paid by farmers in October (including interest, taxes and farm wage rates) were up 1 index point from September, to the record high of 283 first reached last April. Higher prices were paid last month for autos and trucks, and for feed and feeder livestock.

Farm Income Up, But Down From '47

Farmers' net income this year—about 15 billion dollars—tops last year by 2.3 billions, but is down 2 billion from the high peak reached in '47.

Farmers' Prices and Income in '52

Demand is expected to continue strong and both farmers' prices and net income in '52 may not differ much from '51. Farmers' cash receipts may be higher but with production costs expected to be higher by about 5 percent, farmers' net income probably will be only about the same as this year.

Farm Employment Continues to Decline

The number of persons working on farms in October was 5 percent less than in October last year, a continuation of the downward trend begun 3 years ago. The total now is 11,720,000 hired and farm family workers; year ago, 12,298,000; October '45-49 average, 13,124.

U. S. Employment Continues High

Total U. S. civilian employment in October was 61.8 million, compared with 61.6 million in September and 61.8 million year ago. Only 1.6 million persons were unemployed in October. This compares with 1.9 million year ago.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	October 1951
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	296
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	283
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	105
Wholesale prices of food.....	'10-14=100	1/ 297
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	2/ 270
Farm wage rates.....	'10-14=100	3/ 476
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	2/ 569
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Oct. 1950	Jan.-Oct. 1951
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	103.6	102.9
Eggs, (bil.).....	51.7	51.5
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	4/ 5215	4/ 4716
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4/ 402	4/ 337
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	4/ 7299	4/ 8081
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	4/ 13412	4/ 13553
1/ Week ended nearest 15th of the month.		
2/ September figure.		
3/ October 1 adjusted for seasonal variation.		
4/ Jan.-Sept. under Federal inspection.		